

REMARKS

A number of informalities have been corrected.

The Examiner stated that claims 6 - 7 and 13 - 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 6 and 13 have been rewritten as new independent claims 30 and 31, respectively.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 -5, 8 - 11, 17, and 19 - 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,914,637 issued to Wolf et al. The Wolf reference describes a communications system that includes a transmitter, a receiver, and a serial (TMDS) link. In particular, the receiver 2' of Fig. 2 is an element of a sink device that also includes EDID ROM 23, microcontroller 25, display circuitry 26, and audio digital-to-analog converter 27. EDID ROM 23 is coupled to the DDC channel of the TMDS link and stored status and configuration bits which can be read by microcontroller 15 over the DDC channel. (see column 12, lines 47 - 53) Therefore, the TMDS link described in Wolf is, in fact, bi-directional since the DDC channel (which is part of the TMDS link) must provide a means by which the microcontroller 15 reads the configuration bits stored in the EDID ROM 23. (Also note that in Fig. 2, the TMDS link is clearly shown to be bi-directional in nature).

In contrast to Wolf, , claim 1 provides for a uni-directional main link and a bi-directional auxiliary channel that are separate from each other (since one is specifically uni-directional in nature and the other is specifically bi-directional in nature). As pending, claim 1 recites,

a bi-directional auxiliary channel arranged to transfer information between the multimedia source device and the multimedia sink device and vice versa, wherein the information transferred over the auxiliary channel includes a set of packet attributes; and

a unidirectional main link arranged to carry a number multimedia data packets from the multimedia source device to the multimedia sink device each having a multimedia data packet header, wherein each of the headers is reduced in size over what would otherwise be necessary since the packet attributes are communicated via the auxiliary channel prior to the transmission of the

multimedia data packets over the main link thereby commensurably reducing the packet overhead.

Therefore, the Applicants believe that claim 1 as currently pending is neither suggested nor rendered obvious by Wolf. Accordingly, the Applicants believe that all remaining claims are also allowable over the cited art.

Independent claims 19 and 24 recite similar limitations as those recited in claim 1 and are for at least the reasons stated above are also believed to be allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 12 and 18 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the Wolf patent discussed above in view of U.S. PG PUB 2003/0212811 in the case of claim 18 and obvious to one of skilled in the art in the case of claim 12. However, since neither of the secondary references cure the fundamental deficiency of Wolf, claims 12 and 18 are also believed to be allowable.

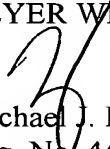
All remaining dependent claims depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 19 and 24 and are also believed to be allowable.

Therefore, the Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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